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Agreement to implement the ROMACT Programme in the Municipality of Brezovo

The ROMACT Programme, which has been implemented by the European Commission and the Council of Europe in Bulgaria since 2013, aims at increasing the capacity of local authorities to develop and implement inclusive policies and plans for the social inclusion of Roma communities.

After due information and consultation, the Municipality of Brezovo agrees to join the ROMACT Programme and commits:

- to communicate to the public about its decision to implement the ROMACT process, including on its website, notably by inserting ROMACT logo and link to ROMACT website;
- to appoint a high level member of the municipal staff as the Coordinator who will be responsible for managing the application of the ROMACT approach in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation process of the local Roma social inclusion policy;
- to designate a Municipal team of employees from relevant departments, responsible for the implementation of the local policy for social inclusion;
- to delegate representatives of concerned municipal departments to participate in the Municipal Taskforce for Roma Inclusion as well as to invite local representatives of Roma community and of the state institutions responsible for the implementation of the national policy for Roma inclusion to participate in the Municipal Taskforce;
- to ensure the participation of staff of concerned municipal departments in capacity-building activities planned in the framework of the ROMACT Programme;
- to lead the drafting or upgrade of the Action Plan for Roma Inclusion, with the contribution of the Community Action Group established with the support of the ROMACT Programme, and to seek for the adoption of the Plan by the Local Council;
- to seek to integrate – where relevant - the content of the Action Plan for Roma Inclusion in the general Local Development Strategy and Plan of the municipality;
- to seek to implement the Action Plan for Roma Inclusion, including the activities integrated in the Local Development Strategy and Plan, by allocating local resources, as well as seeking – where appropriate - external financing, including EU funds.

As part of this Agreement, the ROMACT Programme shall provide:

- the assistance of a Facilitator who will train and coach the staff of concerned municipal departments to identify and assess the local Roma community needs, to design and implement measures for the inclusion of Roma. The Facilitator will also support the dialogue and cooperation between the municipality and the Roma community;

The ROMACT Programme is implemented in municipalities in several countries. The ROMACT process of around 20 months involves four steps: commitment, agreement on needs and plans, design of actions and projects, funding, implementation and monitoring. Additional information can be found on <http://coe-romact.org/>

ROMACT